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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY . Albania/USSR/Rumania

DATE DISTR. 10 MAR 50

SUBJECT. Albanian Production of Oil
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X11. Over-exploitation of the Albanian oil wells since the war has led to considerable deterioration in the quality of the product. Wells are drawn on until fine sand and sediment are reached, and much of the resulting product is found to be unusable. The refined product, whether produced at Kucove or in the USSR, is of uniformly poor quality. That which is refined in Rumania is slightly better.
2. Extraction machinery is badly worn, and at times fails to function. Because of shortage of metal for the construction of derricks, those of wells which appear to be exhausted are dismantled and re-erected over new borings, despite the possibility that the old wells, while inactive for a period, might again begin to be productive through infiltrations of the subsoil.
3. The refinery at Kucove is on occasion inoperative because of the breakdown of machinery and lack of spare parts.
4. The pumping station at Shkroftine is inactive. The installations controlling the inflammable gases are out of order, and so far attempts to obtain new equipment [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted] have failed.
5. Crude oil is accordingly brought to Vlone, both from Patos and Kucove, by pipe-lines in which the crude oil moves by its own weight and motion. The level of fall is slight, and progress is slow. In winter, because of the low temperature, passage of the oil is sometimes at a standstill for several days on end.
6. A new pipeline is reportedly being constructed between Patos and Vlone, via Pier, with a level of fall of 45 meters. No pressure or suction ("aspirations") stations are to be erected.
- 25X17. [redacted] on the average, two 15,000-ton tankers sail from Albanian ports every month for Rumania or the USSR, carrying crude oil from the oil wells at Patos and Kucove.

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